

counselor in Utah, he provided guidance to young men during the Vietnam War and organized the first Earth Day celebration on the University of Utah campus. After that, John returned to his native state of Colorado where he became director of the San Luis Valley Christian Community Services in Alamosa. He retired to Pueblo, Colorado in 1984 and later moved to Denver. But he never slowed down, not even in retirement.

John carried his strong spirit of public service and his belief in the spiritual component of environmentalism into his retirement. He was the living embodiment of the connection between spiritual growth and caring and respect for the natural environment. He understood that these two concepts and ways of acting are complimentary and in fact work in concert. He made it his mission to help others understand this connection and take action to fulfill man's obligations to the natural world. As a result, he joined local Colorado chapters of the Sierra Club where he volunteered vast amounts of his time and energies. In so doing, he became a leader in conservation work for the Sierra Club in Colorado.

John also was a member of the Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, a national group which, among other things, works to place environmental educators in each of the nation's 175 Presbyterian leadership groups. It was John's goal to see this accomplished.

John himself described the importance of this goal, not only for Presbyterians but all faiths, when he said, "Conservation is an integral part of Christian discipleship, and the scriptures teach us to both till and keep the earth." In keeping with these beliefs, John was also chair of the Colorado Council of Churches' Environmental Commission, which continues to help instill greater awareness of the preservation of the environment as a spiritual obligation in denominations throughout Colorado.

In addition to his work with the Sierra Club and religious groups on environmental efforts, John's strong sense of civic responsibility was demonstrated in other ways. He was outspoken on social justice issues through his work on university campuses throughout the Southwest. He joined marches for labor and human rights—especially as those issues arise in connection with the growing, interconnected global economy. He was concerned about urban sprawl and growth and its attendant impacts to the environment and communities. In addition, he served on a panel, created by Governor Roy Romer in 1994, to address issues related to the grazing of livestock on the federal public lands. His work here, along with the other members of the group, helped steer a new course on these issues and led to the successful creation of public advisory boards which provide input to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on resource

management issues. He did all of this and more in retirement.

Especially impressive was John's energy and vigor. He climbed 32 of Colorado's 54 fourteen thousand-foot peaks. He continued to hike, march and contribute right up until his unfortunate accident. His robust condition and positive outlook clearly helped shape his views and helped inspire many to join his causes.

John died doing what he loved—enjoying the splendor and beauty of the natural world. His legacy rests with those who knew him, shared his beliefs and were influenced by his teachings, inspiration and leadership. In the heated debates over environmental policies and issues, the underlying—and overarching—principle of stewardship and our spiritual relationship to the Earth is too often overlooked. John understood this spiritual connection implicitly. He understood that the health, sustainability and stewardship of the environment not only sustains and enriches our lives, but brings us closer to our obligations under religious teaching to care for and not squander the natural bounty that has been entrusted unto us. John's life stands as a reminder that we cannot forget the importance of our place in the world and our obligations to it and to provide an enhanced environment for future generations to inherit.